



# Stairway to Heaven

MIGUEL DULICK

**E**ven by the Ascension, after forty days of eating and drinking with the resurrected Lord, the obtuseness of the Apostles still frustrates Jesus. In Acts, they're ready for a fight, "to restore the kingdom to Israel" (Acts 1:6). Matthew reports that "they worshiped, but they doubted" (Matthew 28:17). Pentecost cannot come soon enough, when they will be baptized with the Holy Spirit, and all will be made known.

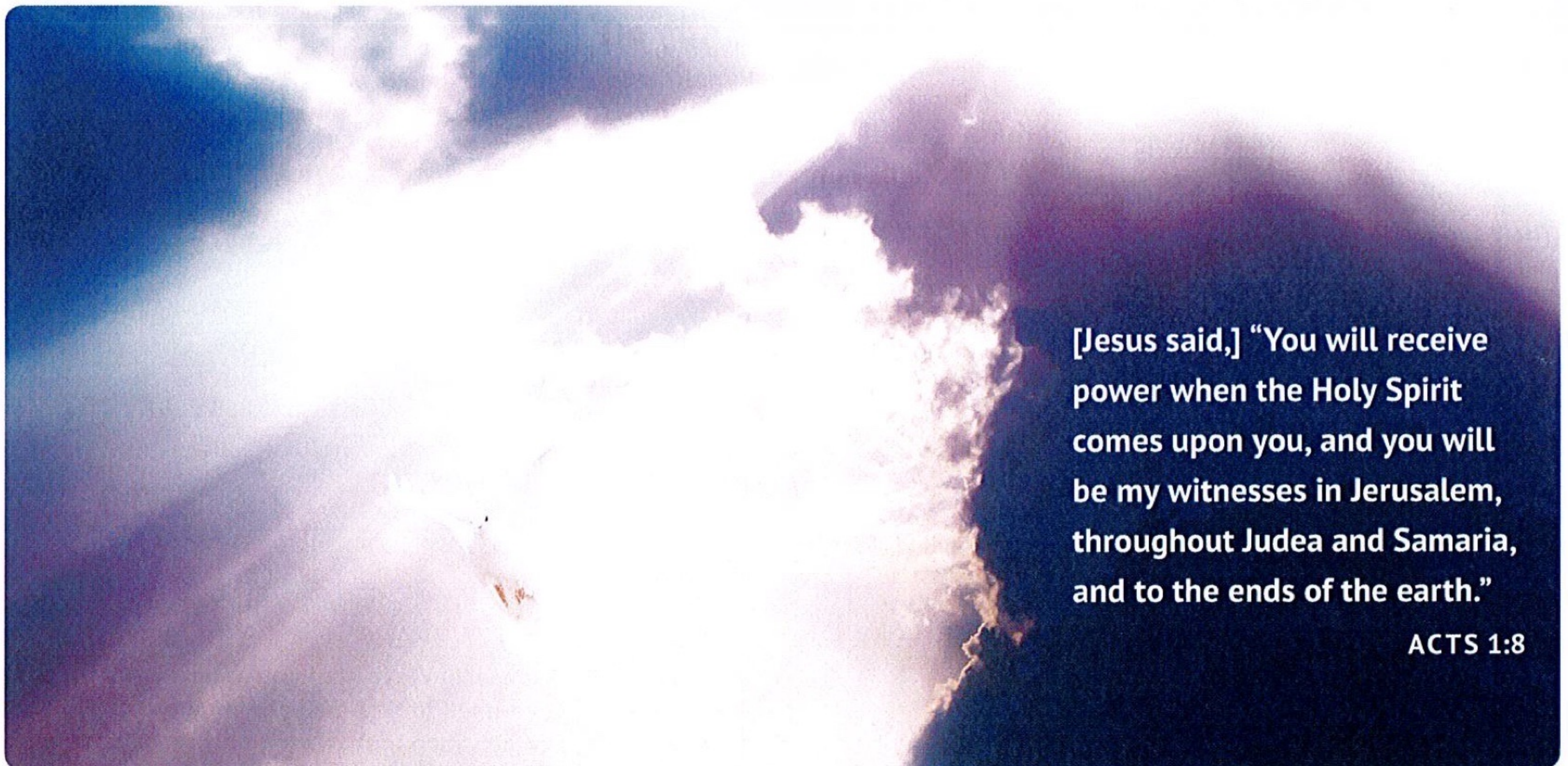
So the next nine days are crucial. The apostles and other disciples, 120 persons in all, prepare for the arrival of the Holy Spirit, a spiritual retreat, the original "novena." Only then can the apostle go and "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

Jesus, who brought heaven down to earth in the Incarnation, now ascends, taking earth up to heaven, with his resurrection. Saint Paul gives us a hint of how special this interchange is when he wishes for the Ephesians to receive from Jesus "a Spirit of wisdom and revelation" (Ephesians 1:17).

Our own obtuseness can block the Holy Spirit when we think we have all the answers. When I first preached in Honduras, in the village where I live, I was so prepared. I said everything I could think of, all that I had learned in my courses for a masters degree in divinity. But then, when I heard the prayers and insights of poor and simple folks, supported by a rich, personal knowledge of the Lord himself, I cut my sermons in half and let the "saints," as St. Paul liked to call the people, finish the job. Thank you, Holy Spirit! ●



LEARN ABOUT  
THE AUTHORS  
OF OUR PARISH  
COMMUNITY



[Jesus said,] "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

ACTS 1:8

## Reflect

**How can I better cooperate with the Holy Spirit?**

 *Mass Intentions*

**Saturday / May 16th – Easter Weekday**

4 p.m. Vigil Mass : Lori Templet

by: Dorine Hertzman

\*2<sup>nd</sup> Collection : The Catholic Communication Campaign

**Sunday/ May 17th – Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**The Ascension of the Lord**

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Marion Macino †

by: Catherine and Garry Raikes

\*2<sup>nd</sup> Collection : The Catholic Communication Campaign

**Monday May 18th – St. John I, Pope and Martyr**

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Theresa Kootz

by: Buddy and Anne Kootz

Parish Advisory Council meeting 6pm – Parish Library

**Tuesday/ May 19th– Easter weekday**

No Holy Mass :

**Wednesday/ May 20th – St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest**

6 p.m. Holy Mass: Ella Boatwright

by: Davina Boatwright

\*Altar Society card party at noon- parish hall

**Thursday / May 21st – St. Christopher Magallanes,  
Priest and Companions, Martyrs**

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Con-fraternity of St. Peter

by: Matthew Winston

\*Retired and Single ladies luncheon noon to 1 pm- parish hall

\*Bingo starts at 6 pm doors open at 5 pm

**Friday/ May 22nd – St. Rita of Cascia ,Religious**

9 a.m. Holy Mass :George Boatwright

by: Davina Boatwright

**Saturday / May 23rd – Easter Weekday**

4 p.m. Vigil Mass : Walter Murphree

by: Donna Boyd

\*no 2<sup>nd</sup> collection

\*Anointing of the sick after Vigil Mass

**Sunday/ May 24th – Pentecost Sunday**

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Mary Welch †

by: Ron Martin and family

\*no 2<sup>nd</sup> collection

\*Anointing of the sick after Holy Mass

\*BINGO every Thursday- doors open 5 pm games start at 6 pm

\*Parish Advisory Council meeting Monday 5.18.26 at 6 pm in the parish library

*Thought*  
for the week .....

**Mt.  
28:19,20**

**Go  
And  
Teach  
All  
Nations..  
I  
AM  
With  
You  
Always,  
Until  
The End  
Of The  
World**

**Easter: 7th Sun-**

**Lamentations. 3:4**

**"Lift up your heart  
The Ascension  
Calls every Christian  
to live with Eyes fi  
on Heaven 🙏🙏🙏  
while Faithfully  
Serving on Earth. 🙏"**

🙏 Wishing you a Blessed Week 🙏



May 9th and May 10th, 2026

Main Collection \$3178.00

*Thank you for your sacrificial giving !*

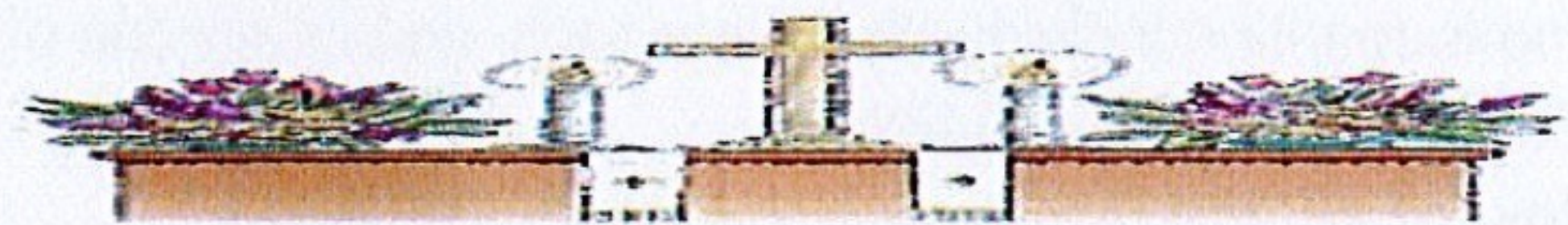
Could you Not watch one hour with me ?



ADORATION CHAPEL SIGN-UP

Available Adoration

None are open at this time  
Rose, (870) 847-5018, or  
Anne, (870) 847-19859



God Bless the Donors and their Intentions

Altar Flowers this week are generously provided by :Petr and Helen Oberding in honor of their wedding anniversary on May 16th.

Tabernacle Roses this week are generously provided by : Izzy Wiest in memory of her daughter and son in law, Mike and Gail Pollard.

### Vacation Bible School

Registration for Vacation Bible School will be held on May 16th and 17th before and after both Masses. Forms can be taken so others can register. You need not be Catholic to attend the Vacation Bible School. It will be held in St. Michael's Parish Hall on Sunday, May 31st until Wednesday, June 3rd from 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm each day. On Wednesday, the children will sing the song they will be learning at the 6 pm Mass. For more information contact Lori Templet at 225-717-0238 or Greta Ishmael at 870-847-6700.

### St. Monica Prayer Group

They meet after 9 am Holy Mass every 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month to pray for their children and families. Please come join them in praying to St. Monica, Anne will have prayer cards at the meeting. Meetings are in the church library. Contact Anne Kootz with any questions.

### Single Retired Ladies Luncheon

The next luncheon is scheduled for **Thursday May 21st from Noon until 1 pm. Location will be in the Parish Hall.** Everyone who attended the last one enjoyed having lunch and visiting! This is a very joyful casual luncheon. Please, come join us! It is to get our ladies together and fellowship. Plenty of laughs and stories.

\*\*\*\*\* **Please bring a luncheon dish to share.** \*\*\*\*\*

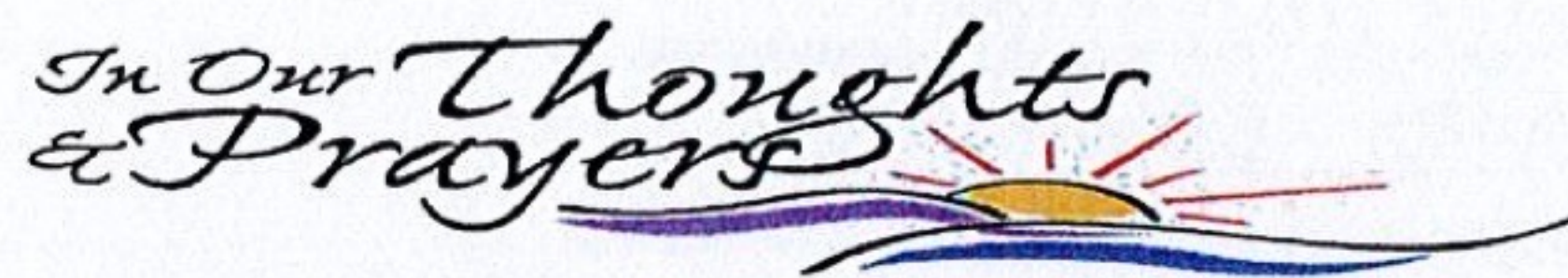
### Thank you to the Knights of Columbus

For all the Big Breakfast meals and all the things that you do silently taking care of the church. The list is way too long to mention individually. Know each and every one of you are greatly appreciated.

**Most of all, the Roses were beautiful that were presented to all the mothers for Mother's Day!**

**\*\* Thank you to each of you for your time and talent!**

This weekend the **Catholic Communication Campaign** will be collected. Half of the collection remains in the Diocese of Little Rock to support the communications ministries, including the newspaper and two websites. Your donation makes it possible to send 16,000 free *Arkansas Catholic* digital subscriptions to readers. Please give generously. Thank you.



**Daniel Brandenburg, Bernie Brandenburg, Robert Butner, Nell Kihm, Jack Heuser, Crystal Hawkins, Joyce Speir, Barbara Loftquist, Michael and Kathy Gagne, Isabelle Wiest, Michael & Martha DeCoster, Larry Allen, Steve Allen, JoAnn Colwell, Georgia Harris, Dan Such, Dawn Logan, Mary Lee, Jim Whorl, Sister Joy Wege, Tim and Betty Eash, Jimmy White, Joan Schulz, Gail Demarest, Nico Woode, Pat Kimball, Ray McHugh, Tim Starken, Marcella Birckhead, Michael Reddick, Chuck Wolff and Gerald and Carol Metty, Darren Bates, Maryann Barber, Martin and Amy Moriarty, Toni Travline, Colleen Royal, Maria Gerrah, Cecilia Cefalu, Darrell and Elizabeth Beason, Doug and Tammy Wortham.**  
**Nursing Home: Ruth Klinge and KayLynn Rodenbeck.**

*We wish you many blessings on your Birthday!*

- May 16th - Webb Munroe
- May 17th - Kirk Kubick
- May 18th - Jude Sanndefer
- May 19th - David Larson
- May 20th - William Matselboba
- May 24th - Alan Phelps



*We wish you many blessings on your Anniversary!*

- ♥ May 19th - Raymond and Mary McHugh  
70 years

**\*\*Baby Bottle Boomerang starts Sunday May 17th if you want to pickup a baby bottle and return by June 28th with your donation money. Thank you ~**

**ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Hwy 62/412 & 49 Tekakwitha Dr.  
Cherokee Village, Arkansas 72529

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Parish Office** Diocese of Little Rock  
257-2850 [www.dolr.org](http://www.dolr.org)  
**Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri, 9:30 – 2:30 Closed Wednesdays**  
**Mailing Address** Arkansas Catholic Newspaper  
P.O. Box 970 [www.arkansascatholic.org](http://www.arkansascatholic.org)  
Cherokee Village, AR 72525  
**Rectory:** (870) 257-4456 St. Michael's CASA #7215  
**St. Michael's Email:** [stmichaelsoffice22@yahoo.com](mailto:stmichaelsoffice22@yahoo.com)  
**St. Michael's Website:** <http://stmichaelscvatholicchurch.org>

**PARISH STAFF**

**Pastor:** Fr. Amal Raju Lourduwamy Punganoor  
**Parish Secretary:** Rhonda Bystry  
**Office Email:** [stmichaelsoffice22@yahoo.com](mailto:stmichaelsoffice22@yahoo.com)  
**Bookkeeper:** Rose Brandenburg  
**Email:** [stmichaelcv@yahoo.com](mailto:stmichaelcv@yahoo.com)

**Holy Mass Schedule: May God Bless You**

**Holy Mass 9:00 a.m.:** Sunday, Monday, Thursday, Friday & 1st Saturday  
**Evening Holy Mass 6:00 p.m.:** Wednesday  
**Vigil Holy Mass 4:00 pm.:** Saturday  
**Confession 3:00 p.m.:** 3:45 p.m. Saturday, 1st Friday & 1st Saturday of the month after 9 a.m. Holy Mass or by Appointment.  
**\*30 minutes prior to every Holy Mass, we pray the Holy Rosary\***  
For more information, please contact the Church Office.

**Sacraments**

**ENCOUNTERS WITH THE RISEN CHRIST !**

**The Sacrament of reconciliation** is offered on First Friday and First Saturday after the 9 am Mass, Saturdays at 3 pm, and most any reasonable time by appointment. Your identity need not be known; your anonymity is respected.

**The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** is strongly encouraged by those seriously ill, the elderly, or those facing surgery. This sacrament of Our Lord's healing & comfort is usually available on the last weekend each month after every Mass, or by appointment.

**The Sacrament of Marriage** is a wonderful commitment to life and love, and the Church welcomes those who are called to this noble vocation. Christian marriage involves a couple's serious deliberation, prayer, and planning. The diocesan policy requires all engaged couples to contact the pastor at least 6 months before setting any wedding date.

**The Sacrament of Baptism** presupposes sufficient instruction according to the age of the candidate, and a desire to practice the faith. Expectant parents are encouraged to ask the Pastor for the Church's blessing for a safe and healthy delivery. Call the Church Office to schedule instruction and the service.

**PARISH MINISTRIES**

(Area code is 870 unless otherwise noted )

**Adoration Chapel Coordinators**  
Rose Brandenburg (10 a.m. -4 p.m.) 847-5018  
Anne Kootz (4 p.m. - 9 p.m.) 847-1985

**Altar Society**  
Rose Brandenburg Financial Secretary 257-2850

**B-I-N-G-O**  
Isabelle Wiest 994-2243

**Columbarium Committee**  
Jim Wege (Kevin Templet, Kevin Langellier) 847-3396

**Holy Family Cemetery**  
Bernie Brandenburg 994-2744

**Knights of Columbus**  
Buddy Kootz (Grand Knight) 847-0264

**Compassion Ministry**  
Pat Such 847-7224

**Liturgical Ministries**  
Altar Servers - Buddy Kootz 847-0264

**Eucharistic Ministers**  
Parish Secretary 257-2850

**Communion to Nursing Homes**  
Nancy Paluck 421-9383

**Communion to Sick & Homebound**  
Maureen Matselboba (941) 356-0333

**Lectors**  
Teri Taylor 847-2112

**Music Director**  
Rose Brandenburg 847-5018

**Sacristans**  
Matt Winston 257-2857

**Ushers**  
Joann Helfert 920-344-0365

**Finance Council Committee**  
**Michael Gagne (FC-Chair) (PC)** 751-3419  
Bernie Brandenburg (FC) 994-2744  
Rhonda Bystry (FC) 994-2177  
Maureen Fortuna (FC) 966-3367

**Parish Council Committee**  
**Buddy Kootz (PC-Chair)** 847-0264  
Rose Brandenburg (PC) 847-5018  
Alison Munroe (PC) 847-7707  
Joyce Speir (PC) 266-3586  
Lori Templet (PC) 856-2261  
Isabelle Wiest (PC) 994-2243

**Prayer Chain**  
Kathy Gagne 751-3420  
[pray4me70@att.net](mailto:pray4me70@att.net)

**Religious Education C.C.D**  
Lori Templet 856-2261  
[ltemplet2507@yahoo.com](mailto:ltemplet2507@yahoo.com)

**St. Vincent de Paul Society**  
Nancy Paluck 421-9383

**Help Line** 257-3448

**Altar Flower Decorator**  
Pam MacAulay 847-6742

**NEW PARISHIONERS**  
Welcome to St. Michael's! We're glad you're here. Please introduce yourself to Fr. Amal, and register by completing a registration form, then kindly return it to the Church Office. Get involved! Volunteer! Let us share with each other our God-given talents, love, and service to our neighbors. R.C.I.A. Adult Education.

Holy Family Catholic Cemetery  
Burial Plots  
Contact: Bernie Brandenburg

St. Michael's Columbarium  
Payment Plans Available  
Contact: Jim Wege



St. Michael's Parish Hall  
Thursday 6 p.m.  
Doors Open at 5 p.m.  
1st Sunday of the month  
1 p.m. Doors Open at 12 p.m.

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## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

CHARITY, UNITY,  
FRATERNITY

St. John Neumann Council 6969  
Grand Knight Buddy Kootz (870) 847-0264

Social and Potluck Meeting  
2nd Monday of the month  
Rosary 5:30 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.  
Officers Meeting  
Last Monday of the month  
Rosary 5:30 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.



Fourth Degree  
Patriotic Degree of the order  
FN Michael Gagne (870)751-3419  
Quarterly Business Meeting  
2nd Saturday of the month

## new beginnings

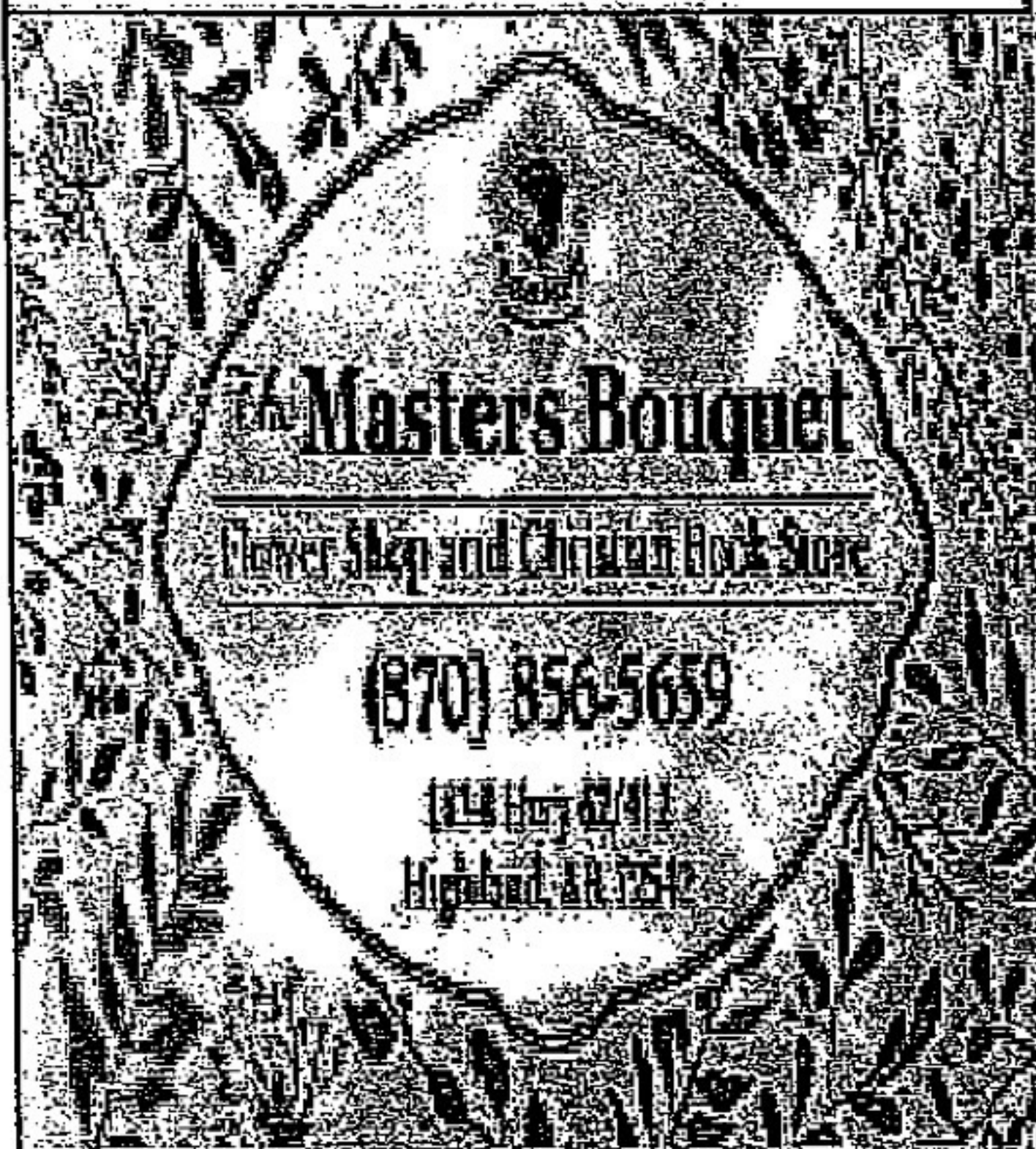
PREGANACY HELP CENTER

New Beginning  
1438 HWY 62/412  
Highland, AR. 72542  
(870)994-LIFE (5433)  
After Hours Hotline  
1-800-712-HELP (4357)  
TXT Helpline to 313131  
Monday — Thursday open  
10 a.m. — 5 p.m.  
Closed Friday, Saturday, Sunday



## White River Health

Caring Beyond Healthcare  
195 Hospital Drive  
Cherokee Village, AR 72525  
870-257-6000



## Masters Bouquet

Flower Shop and Christian Book Store

(870) 856-5659

1438 Hwy 62/412  
Highland, AR 72542

## TRI-COUNTY FUNERAL HOME

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when needed most

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tricityfuneralhome@yahoo.com

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P.O. Box 665  
Hardy, AR 72542

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## Worthington

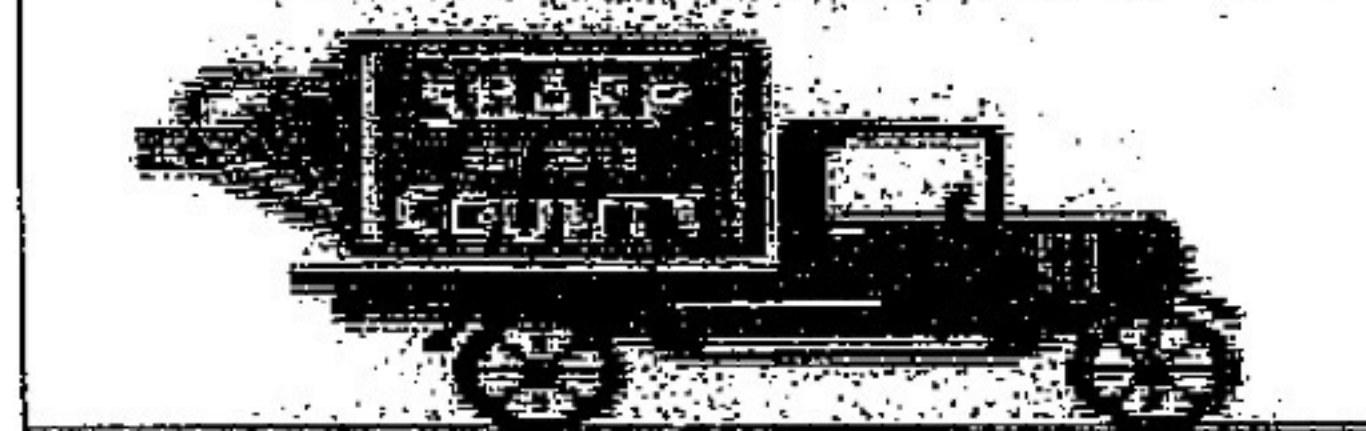
Funeral Home

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3079 Highway 412 West  
Hardy, Arkansas 72542

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(870) 856-6658  
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1002 First Street  
Horseshoe Bend AR.72512  
(870) 670-5896

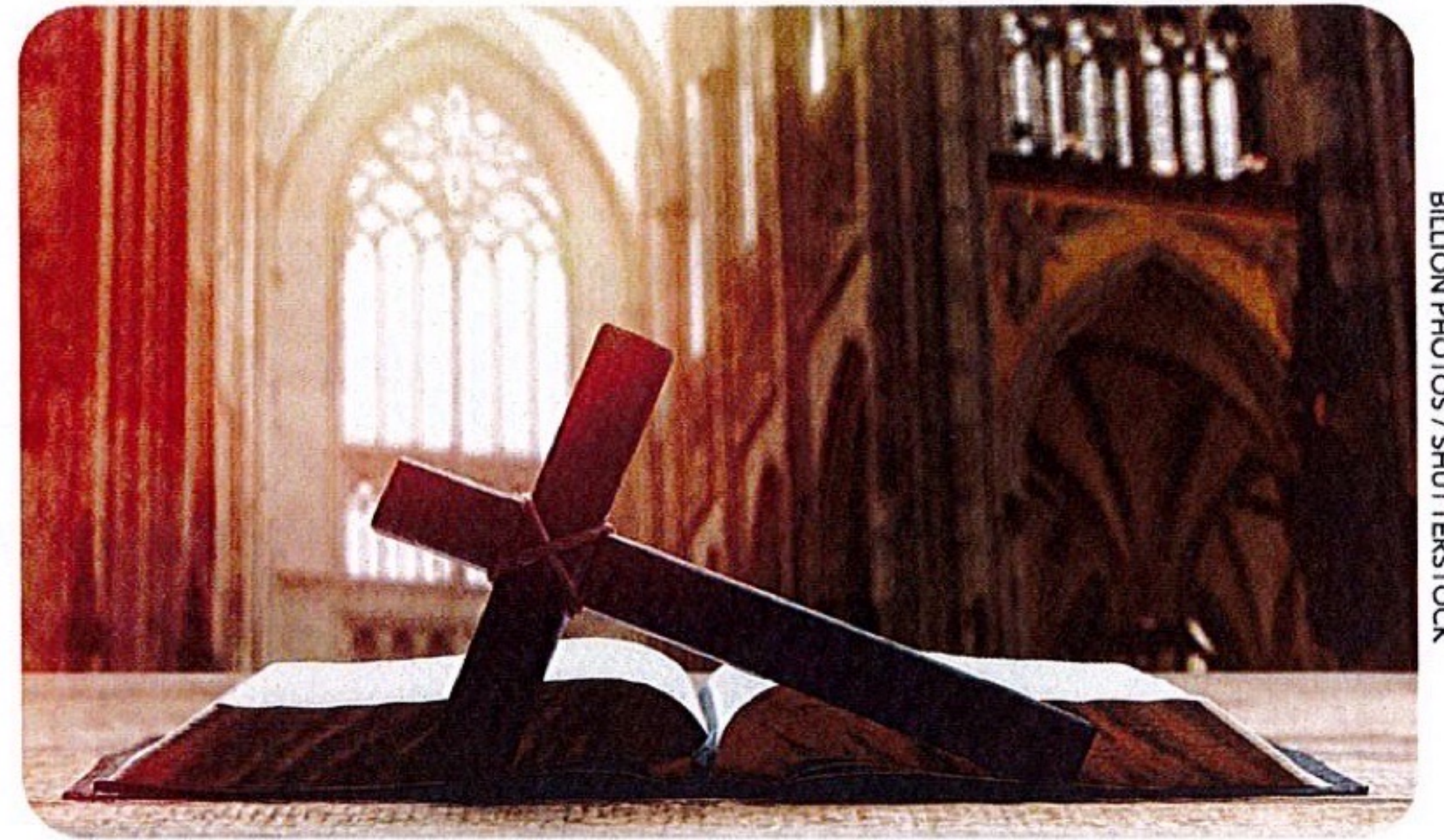
<https://stmaryshsb.org>  
Confessions after every Mass  
Adoration after Friday Mass

churchoffice@stmaryshsb.org  
Horseshoe Bend AR.72512  
(870) 670-5896

# Dear Padre,

*I am scared of the end times and predictions of these dates. I feel saved, but I don't truly know if I would be accepted into heaven. What are the Catholic teachings on the end times/rapture?*

No one but our heavenly Father knows the precise time of our Lord's return. (See Mark 13:32-37.) If this uncertainty about when Jesus will return evokes more apprehension than anticipation, it doesn't help that prophets of doom make predictions based on a distorted understanding of apocalyptic literature in the Bible. An example of this literary form includes the Book of Revelation. It contains elements of a final judgment and cosmic struggle between good and evil written in highly symbolic and imaginative language; however, it wasn't intended to provide a literal description or timeline of how the world ends. In 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, St. Paul also uses apocalyptic imagery to say that all the faithful will be "caught up" ("rapt up") to meet the Lord at his Coming. Some use this single text to vividly imagine true believers being "raptured" from the earth and escaping the destruction of humankind at the end times, but it's a misinterpretation. For Catholics, these apocalyptic passages offer hope and guidance: despite the powerful forces of evil, Christ will overcome. His death and resurrection already ushered in the last age. We don't know how long this age will last before the final consummation, hence the need to be watchful and prepared. ●



BILLION PHOTOS / SHUTTERSTOCK

**Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org**

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

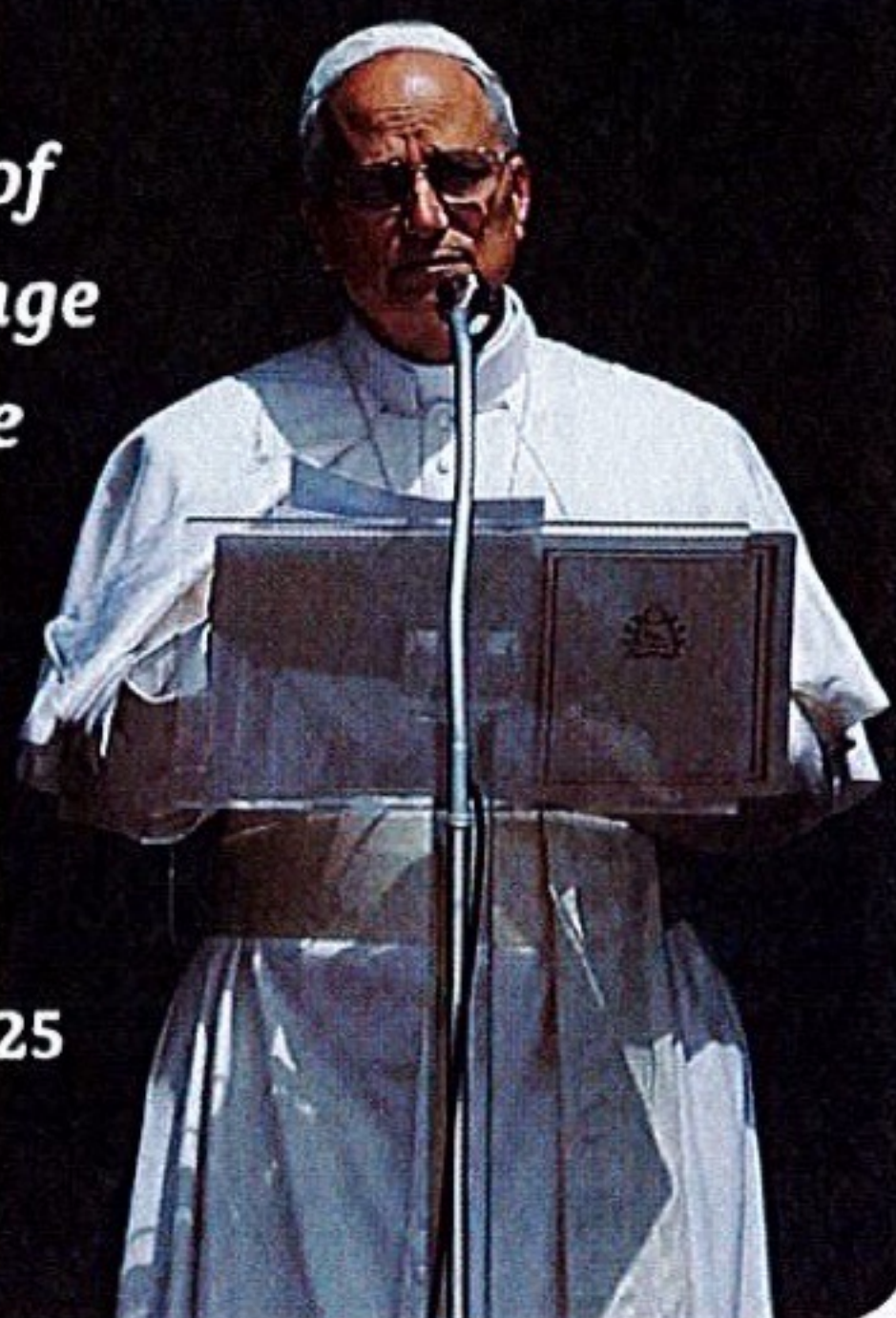
Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*Where are you...when the poor are blamed for their poverty, forgotten and discarded, in a world that values profit more than people? [W]here are you in a hyper-connected life where loneliness corrodes social bonds and makes us strangers even to ourselves?...*

*Fraternity...means rediscovering the face of the other...the very image of God in the face of the poor, the refugee, and even the adversary.*

ADDRESS TO MEETING  
ON FRATERNITY, ROME,  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2025



MARCO IACOBucci EPP / SHUTTERSTOCK

#### Monday

May 18  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 19:1-8  
Jn 16:29-33

#### Tuesday

May 19  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 20:17-27  
Jn 17:1-11a

#### Wednesday

May 20  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 20:28-38  
Jn 17:11b-19

#### Thursday

May 21  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 22:30; 23:6-11  
Jn 17:20-26

#### Friday

May 22  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 25:13b-21  
Jn 21:15-19

#### Saturday

May 23  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31  
Jn 21:20-25

#### Sunday

May 24  
Pentecost Sunday  
Acts 2:1-11  
1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13  
Jn 20:19-23